

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Honourable Jim Prentice  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Canada

**Re: Late filing of “best available information” by Environment Canada for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board’s Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Species at Risk Act (SARA) Listing of the Cumberland Sound Beluga Population as a Threatened Species**

Dear Minister Prentice,

On October 9<sup>th</sup> 2009, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB or Board) received a *Proposal for NWMB Decision* requesting a decision from the NWMB regarding the proposed Species at Risk Act (SARA) listing of the Cumberland Sound beluga population as a threatened species. Shortly thereafter, the NWMB received the “*best available information*” required by the 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between Canada and the NWMB (MOU)<sup>1</sup> to be filed with the Board prior to the commencement of the hearing process (clauses 3.9 and 3.11 of the MOU). The NWMB then proceeded as per clause 3.10 to proceed with its public consideration by providing public notice that it would hold a public hearing June 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> in Pangnirtung, Nunavut and by inviting written translated response submissions to the *Proposal for NWMB Decision*, to be filed by no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2010.

On May 17<sup>th</sup> 2010, Environment Canada filed an additional document ("Socio-Economic Analysis for Cumberland Sound Beluga"), which forms part of the "best available information" required by clause 3.9 of the MOU. The NWMB indicated in its March 19<sup>th</sup> correspondence that, *"unless persuasive written and translated reasons are provided to the Board for late filing, the NWMB will not consider materials for this hearing that are not filed on time."*

The NWMB is requesting that you provide written and translated reasons for the late submission of the additional "*best available information*" and written assurance that Environment Canada will henceforth make a greater effort to comply with the NWMB's hearing rules and directions in the future by no later than **5:00 p.m. ET on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010**.

In a separate letter, the NWMB has provided the appropriate follow-up actions required to maintain efficiency, timeliness and –most importantly- fairness to address the late submission of the “best available information”.

<sup>1</sup> A Memorandum of Understanding to Harmonize the Designation of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the Listing of Wildlife Species at Risk Under the Species at Risk Act.

If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to the content of this letter please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Yours sincerely,



A/Chairperson of the Nunavut  
Wildlife Management Board

- c.c. Richard Connelly, Executive Director of the Nunavut Inuit Wildlife Secretariat, for distribution to the Chairpersons of Nunavut Hunters and Trappers Organizations and Regional Wildlife Organizations;  
Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Government of Canada  
Eric Kan, Area Director –Eastern Arctic Region, Department of Fisheries and Oceans  
Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Director of Wildlife, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.;  
Virginia Poter, Director General, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service